An, Essay.

on.

Scarlatina.

Respectfully submitted.

To, the

Homoeopathic, Medical College.

of,

Pennsylvania.

on the first day of, January.

one thousand eighthundred and

fifty

For the

Doctrate in Medicine

by

Barton Munsey

of

Wilmington

North Carolina

Scarlet Fever

Scarlatina

Diagnosis. Fever with a greatly accelerated pulse, pain in the throat, after one or more days, a breaking out of large scarlet-red spots, without definite limits, and like erysipelas gradually diminishing in color, as they approach the surrounding skin they often extend over whole limbs with a uniform redness. They disappear after four or five days, when the epidermis scales off in large pieces or patches, and are followed by a great disposition to watery accumulations. The spots are generally smooth, but sometimes little miliary like pimples form on them. This has given rise to a distinction of scarlatina into two

Rutland

kinds the smooth and the papulae (measles
scarletfever) but they are only
varieties of one disease. But no malady
affords so many anomalies in its
appearance as this one. Sometimes there
is merely an angina (internal scarlatina
of the mucous membrane of the throat)
and externally little or no redness appears.
Sometimes this is entirely wanting and
the existance of the disease is recognised
only by the subsequent desquamation or
hydropic accumulations. An equally quick
pulse is not met with in any other disease,
and is to be regarded in the forming stage as a
prognostic sign of imminent scarlet
fever. It is distinguished from measles by
the absence of cough, sneezing and
lachrymation. Fever and angina increase
with the approaching eruption; and

in some subjects delirium and spasms are also observed. In the stage of the eruption and efflorescence the spots appear first on the fore arms and hands, gradually spreading over the whole body but rarely in the face. They increase in size and redness, and are augmented by neurosis. The angina also increases in equal proportion; for it is nothing but internal scarlatinous inflammation. The fever continues, and becomes often very violent. Only in slight cases it ceases with the appearance of the eruption. In more severe attacks the brain and abdominal viscera are inflammatory affected. The exanthem, like erysipelas, is very erratic or volatile. And apt to disappear and shift inwardly. This stage lasts five or six days, on the

sometimes not earlier than on the ninth day. The epidermis begins to scale off in large pieces or patches. After violent scarlatinous inflammation, the whole skin of a part, as of the hands, feet or scrotum scales off retaining the shape of the parts. A similar desquamation takes place also from the internal membrane of the throat, after a violent angina. The desquamation lasts many days. The fever ceases during critical secretions by urine and other ways, except when metastasis happens. It is not unusual for this stage to be followed by a stadium secundarium, metasticum, generally hydropicum, most frequently the consequence of taking cold or a disturbed crisis. The most common occurrence is dropsy a hydrops

ascites which may become fatal within eight or ten days. Its onset is first recognised by an oedematous swelling of the eyelids, then of the extremities succeeded by general anasarca, ascites, hydrothorax and hydrocephalus. Metastases to the eyes, ears glands, indurations and abscess are still more frequent. The scarlatinous metastases are very destructive. I have seen both eyes lost by suppuration, in ten days in a boy four years old and the auditory and nasal bones destroyed. Scarlet fever is one of the most malignant and deceitful of all eruptive diseases, and often from the commencement the muscles of the neck and lower jaw are suddenly affected with a kind of stiffness. On the second day, the fauces are inflamed, the voice is hoarse and

deglutition difficult and painful. The glands of the neck sometimes inflame and suppurate, so as to occasion great destruction of the parts; and, at times the tumors press upon the larynx, so that the patient dies under all the symptoms of suffocation. In many cases, the malignant form terminates on the third or fourth day; and at times, without there being any reason to apprehend so sudden a termination. There is no safety for the patient, for the sequelae are often as important as the original affection. In some epidemics, the sequelae have been found more serious than the primary disease

Treatment

Aconitum in cases of the complication of miliaria purpurea; violent fever with dry heat, frequent full and quick pulse; congestion in the head with puffed face vertigo bilious vomiting; and dizziness or delirium; or lethargy, from which the patient awakes with a start; dry short painful cough; bleeding at the nose sometimes with haemoptysis; inflammation of the throat, pain in the limbs, urine scanty burning deep red and with a sediment of brick colour

Coffea when the patient is much agitated, or sleepless and irritable, when Aconi. nor coff is sufficient in case of miliaria purpurea. Dulc. is often indicated.

Belladonna is indicated when the skin is swelled with heat and scarlet redness of the whole body, or of several parts of the body with small quick pulse difficulty of respiration violent inflammation in the throat and amygdalae, with shooting pain or spasmodic contraction; inability to swallow the least liquid, which sometimes escapes through the nostrils; danger of suffocation, on feeling the throat on turning the head; violent thirst, with or without hydrophobia; violent pressure on the forehead, as if the eyes were being forced out of the sockets, or tearing and shooting in the head, vertigo, and clouded sight; red and dry tongue; slipperiness with nervous excitement;

frightful vision on closing the eyes
starts and jerks, urine turbid of a
yellow color, or brownish red or
whitish with a sediment, pain as of
dislocation in the back and between
the shoulders.

Capsicum, is indicated if there be:
extreme redness of the face; swollen
and cracked lips; burning blisters in
the mouth and on the tongue; slimy
saliva in the mouth; violent sore
throat; painful swallowing and a
sensation in the curtain of the palate
on swallowing, with paroxysmal and
agonising pains in the ganglions of the
neck; also; tickling, hoarseness and hacking
cough and a final accumulation of
tough mucus in the nose and throat.

Tenesmus of the bladder: frequent, but unsuccessful desire to urinate, and the urine deposits a white sediment.

Mercurius Sol. Inflammation and excessive swelling of the amygdalae with violent shootings in the throat especially when swallowing, which extends to the parotides ears and sub maxillary glands; burning in the throat, and pain as from excoriation swelling and great inflammatory redness of the parts affected, elongation of the uvula: constant desire to swallow, with sensation as of a lump requiring to be swallowed: difficulty deglutition especially of drinks, which escape

through the nostrils, unpleasant taste
in the mouth; suppuration of the
amygdalae, or ulcers in the throat
aggravation of the malady at night
or in the evening, and also in
the cool air and while speaking
shivering in the evening, or
shiverings alternately with heat;
perspiration, which affords no relief;
rheumatic teasing or drawing pains
in the head and nape of the neck,
Accumulation of tenacious saliva
in the mouth. The tongue is coated
as with fur in the morning,
whitish brown or blackish.
The urine is scanty, fine red
or browned.

Arsenicum is indicated if there be; absolute exhaustion of strength, sudden emaciation; nocturnal paroxysms of fever with burning heat, burning face distorted features; cold hands and indifferent thirst; bad temper; distressing restlessness, and sleeplessness at night and gnashing of teeth; gangrene of the throat and exulceration of excessively foeted matter Webster urine, almost colourless, yellow, brown or greenish. Arsenicum is also a most important agent for the relief of various forms of dropsy that succeed scarlet fever, such as. Hydrothorax. Ascites. and Anasarca.

Baryta carb. when there are pains in the throat on empty swallowing. Angina lingers, remains stationary and passes over to the chronic state. After the use of Belladonna and Mercurius.

Cuprum Aceticum in cases of repercussion of the eruption, the brain being attacked by a process of metastasis so suddenly that paralysis and death may be the consequence.

Other remedies are Bry. Rhus, Rhus ac. Sulph. Opium, or Bell is preferable if coma, somnolentum.

Ipecacuanha is indicated if there are
cries howling anxiety and fear of
death, moroseness, desire for a number
of things without knowing exactly
which, pale earthlike, or yellowish
color of the face, which is bloated,
with livid circles round the eyes
profuse secretion of saliva, tongue
loaded with a white or yellowish
coating insipid or clammy taste
nausea with accumulation of saliva,
vomiting of drinks and undigested food,
or else bilious greenish, acid or
slimy, uneasiness in the stomach and
epigastrium violent itching in the
skin tossing and cries, colic, Diarrhoea,
urine turbid with sediment
like brickdust,

Muriat Acid is indicated if there be dark red flushings of the cheeks, lividity of the neck and faint efflorescence which changes to a dark red ~~often~~ intermixed with petechiæ ulceration of the tonsils and adjoing parts with sloughs, fœted breath; acrid discharge from the nose, with soreness, chaps and blisters about the nose and lips.

Phosphorus is indicated if there be dry hard tongue and lips, covered with blackish scab; loss of speech and hearing; dysphagia; incontinence of urine; falling off of the hair.

Sulphur, when there is cerebral affections, which will not yeeld to Belledonna, with lethargic sleep, starts convulsions of the eyes; or continued delirium; puffed and bright red face; obstructed nose, dry cracked red tongue, covered with brownish mucus; thirst, dysphgia.

Sulphuric Acid, if there be; paleness of face sudden decline of the strength; frequent chills; lancinating pains in the throat with swelling that reaches the submaxillary glands; bluish red patches covered by a membrane, beneath which is more or less suppuration vitiated dark eruption with petechiae,